

TORRANCE PICTORIAL



AN INTERIOR VIEW of the Kuska Museum on Walnut Street in Lomita shows a small section of the two room building which houses over 20,000 pieces of antique furniture, glassware, buttons, silver, gems, coins, campaign buttons, dresses, and over 1,000 dolls. Mrs.

Nellie Kuska and her husband Joseph moved their 17-ton collection to Lomita from Kansas in 1957 and opened the gallery to the public. There is no charge but donations are accepted.

—PRESS photos by William Schell Jr. and Gordon Akers



"MY FIRST DOLL," says Mrs. Kuska, "was given to me by my mother when I was seven. It was the beginning of my doll collection which now totals over 1,000 dolls." Dolls from all over the world including Mrs. Kuska's first one are on display in the museum.



COBBLER'S BENCH used in the 1850's shows its age in the grooves worn in the shelves where nails were kept. Cobblers' hands reaching for nails year after year have left definite worn places in the old wood. The shoe (inset) worn at a wedding in 1881 is typical of the type that was handmade on this kind of bench.



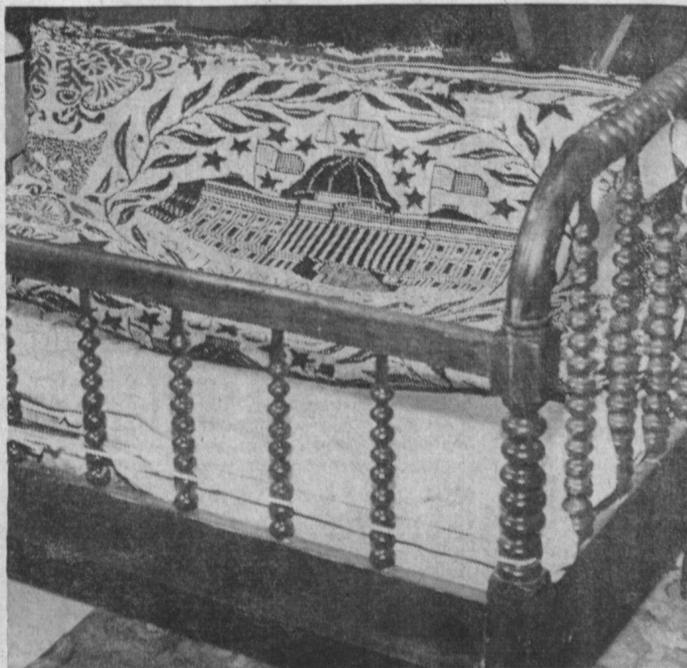
DEEP PURPLE velvet gown beaded with Bohemian garnets is shown by Mrs. Kuska. The above gown was worn at the reception for President Grant in 1870. It and the gown in the rear were both made in Paris. The latter dress was worn at McKinley's Inaugural in 1897.



A NECKLACE of 37 jewels each containing a miniature reproduction of a famous painting in the Louvre, highlight a rare French doll, the only one in the world, and made in 1899. The doll wears a real ermine cape over a handmade lace and satin dress.



A PROUD MOMENT for Mrs. Kuska, owner of the private museum that is probably the largest of its kind in the United States, was when her alma mater, Fort Hayes (Kansas) State College, honored her with a distinguished achievement award. Mrs. Kuska holds the plaque she received and the robes she wore at the ceremony. The award was for her achievements in the preservation of American history.



100 YEAR-OLD COVERLET, hand-loomed, is displayed in an infant's Jenny Lind bed. It is one of the many pieces of needlework shown from 9 a.m. to 6

p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 to 5 on Sunday at the museum, 24201 Walnut St., Lomita.



IN 1700 FAMILIES would place their silver in a chest like the Hepplewhite knife box above, and take it to their bedrooms at night to prevent the servants from running off with the valuable silver.